Nahnu Ansarullah

May 2025 | Hijrat 1404 | Dhu al-Qa'dah 1446 | Volume 25 | Issue 05
www.nahnuansarullah.ca

Supervision
Abdul Hameed Waraich
Sadr Majlis Ansarullah Canada

Editors
Ghulam Misbah Baloch
Dr. Hameed A. Mirza
Mutaz Al Kazak

Editor-in-chief
Sohail Ahmed Saqib
Na'ib Sadr Majlis Ansarullah Canada

Manager
Muhammad Musa
Qa'id Ishaat

Editorial Assistants / Layout & Graphics
Kashif Bin Arshad Additional Qa'id Isha'at, Masood Ahmed Na'ib Qa'id Isha'at, Nisar A. Shams, Dr. Mohyuddin Mirza, Zafar Nadeem, Mansoor Chughtai

Special Appeal For Prayers

In his Friday Sermon of August 23, 2024, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (May Allah be his Helper) instructed us to recite the following prayers to remain within the fortress of Divine protection, safe from Satanic onslaughts:

سُبْحَانَ اللّٰهِ وَبِحَمْدِهٖ سُبْحَانَ اللّٰهِ الْعَظِيمِ اللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

Translation: *Holy is Allah with His praise, Holy is Allah the Great, O Allah, bless Muhammad and the people of Muhammad*

(200 Times Daily for age 25+, 100 Times Daily for ages 15-25, 33 Times Daily for children and 3-4 Times Daily for small children

اَسْتَغْفِرُ اللّٰهَ رَبِّي مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ وَاَتُوبُ اِلَيْهِ

Translation: *I seek forgiveness from Allah, my Lord, for all my sins, and turn to Him.*

(100 Times Daily)

رَبِّ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ خَادِمُكَ رَبِّ فَاحْفَظْنِي وَانْصُرْنِي وَارْحَمْنِي

Translation: *O my Lord, everything is Your servant. O my Lord, so protect me, help me and have mercy upon me!*

(100 Times Daily)

His Holiness said that these days when Satan is trying to attack our Community and the world at large, the only way for us to remain safeguarded is through prayers. Hence, we should recite these prayers, not just during the days of Jalsa but throughout the year.

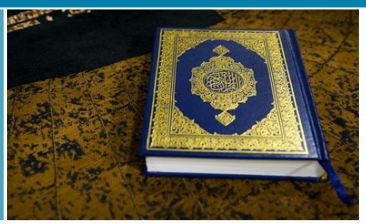
(Friday Sermon of August 23, 2024)

ISSN 2560-886X (Print) ISSN 2560-8878 (Online) Ishaat@ansar.ca TEL:905-417-1800
www.nahnuansarullah.ca

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Table of Contents

Holy Quran



1

2

Hadith

So Said The Promised Messiah[as]

3

4

Huzoor's Recollections of April 2003
Huzooraa Narrates a Momentous Series of Events (Taken from Al-Hakam)

Planning, Designing, And Growing Your Garden
Dr. Mohyuddin Mirza, Edmonton, Alberta

7

13

BUYING A USED CAR IN CANADA
Nisar Shams, Melville

The Holy Qur'an

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمٰنِ الَّذِيْنَ يَمْشُوْنَ عَلَى الْاَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَّاِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجٰهِلُوْنَ قَالُوْا سَلٰمًا ﴿٦٤﴾
وَالَّذِيْنَ يَبِيْتُوْنَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَّقِيَامًا ﴿٦٥﴾

Translation

And the servants of the Gracious God are those who walk on the earth in a dignified manner, and when the ignorant address them, they say, 'Peace!' And who spend the night before their Lord, prostrate and standing (25:64-65)

Short Commentary

With this verse begins a brief description of the great moral revolution which that Sun of the spiritual firmament—the Holy Prophet—brought about among his people. From عباد الشيطان i.e. the sons of darkness, they became عباد الرحمان i.e. the servants of the Gracious and Beneficent God. The various qualities of the righteous servants of the Gracious God, referred to in this and the following verses, are the opposites of the vices from which the people of the Holy Prophet[sa] particularly suffered. The Divine attribute الرحمن i.e. the Gracious, has been specially mentioned to show that the great revolution referred to above was brought about by the teaching of the Quran whose revelation has a direct and intimate connection with this Divine attribute as hinted in the verse الرحمن علم القرآن i.e. the Gracious God Who taught the Quran (55:2-3).

The verse also implies that the lives of God's servants also bear testimony to the fact that He is الرحمن (Gracious).

History bears witness to the fact that early Muslims, even in the field of battle, while they had remained engaged all day long in fighting, spent their nights in prayer and the remembrance of God.

Picture Source: https://www.alhakam.org/

Hadith

عَنِ النُّعْمَانِ بْنِ بَشِيْرٍ رَضِيَ اللّٰهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ .... فَقَالَ حُذَيفة: قَالَ رَسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ ﷺ: تَكُوْنُ النُّبُوَّةُ فِيْكُمْ مَّا شَاءَ اللّٰهُ اَنْ تَكُوْنَ، ثُمَّ يَرْفَعُهَا اِذَا شَاءَ اَنْ يَّرْفَعَهَا، ثُمَّ تَكُوْنُ خِلَافَةٌ عَلٰى مِنْهَاجِ النُّبُوَّةِ فَتَكُوْنُ مَا شَاءَ اللّٰهُ اَنْ تَكُوْنَ، ثُمَّ يَرْفَعُهَا اِذَا شَاءَ اَنْ يَّرْفَعَهَا، ثُمَّ تَكُوْنُ مُلْكًا عَاضًّا فَيَكُوْنُ مَا شَاءَ اللّٰهُ اَنْ يَّكُوْنَ، ثُمَّ يَرْفَعُهَا اِذَا شَاءَ اَنْ يَّرْفَعَهَا، ثُمَّ تَكُوْنُ مُلْكًا جَبْرِيَّةً، فَتَكُوْنُ مَا شَاءَ اللّٰهُ اَنْ تَكُوْنَ، ثُمَّ يَرْفَعُهَا اِذَا شَاءَ اَنْ يَّرْفَعَهَا، ثُمَّ تَكُوْنُ خِلَافَةٌ عَلٰى مِنْهَاجِ نُبُوَّةٍ ثُمَّ سَكَتَ۔

(مسلم کتاب (مسند احمد بن حنبل، اول مسند الکوفیین، حدیث النعمان بن بشیر عن النبی ﷺ 18596)

Translation:

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.) said: "Prophethood will remain among you as long as Allah wills. Then khilafat on the lines of Prophethood shall commence and remain as long as Allah wills. Then corrupt/erosive monarchy would take place, and it will remain as long as Allah wills. After that, despotic kingship would emerge, and it will remain as long as Allah wills. Then, the khilafat shall come once again based on the precept of Prophethood." (Musnad Ahmad bin Hanbal)

Explanation: In this Hadith, the promise of khilafat relates to Prophethood on two separate occasions. In between the two eras of Khilafat, the reference to "the corrupt/erosive monarchy" and "despotic kingship" is what we would like term as "Caliphate." Most of the Muslim monarchs used the title "Khalifa", but they had in fact digressed from following the precept of Prophethood. The Arabic words showing the relationship between Khilafat and Prophethood are "Khilafat -ala- Minhaj-e-nabuwwat", that is, Khilafat on the lines of Prophethood. This means that a Prophet's true Successors (Khulafa) would continue to follow the example of the Prophet and lead the believers in the same way as the Prophet guided them. This elucidates the principle that Khilafat in its essence is a continuation of the mission of the Prophet.

Picture Source: https://www.ahmadiyyagallery.org

So said the Promised Messiah as

Make the Modern Sciences Subservient to Islam

"Hence, in this day and age, it is imperative that you learn the modern sciences and study them with toil and effort for the purpose of service to the Faith and the supremacy of God's Word. However, it is my experience—and so I would like to warn you—that those who became entangled in secular knowledge alone, and became so absorbed and engrossed in such study that they did not receive an opportunity to sit in the company of spiritual and saintly people, and were also themselves devoid of spiritual light, they too have usually stumbled. They became distanced from Islam and instead of looking at these sciences in light of Islam, they made useless attempts to bend Islam to secular thought. And by doing so, in their own fancy, they became defenders in the cause of service to country and nation. But remember, no one can accomplish this task, i.e. of serving the Faith, unless they possess within themselves heavenly light.

The fact of the matter is that education in these sciences is influenced by Christian theology and philosophical thought. As a result, people who are fond of these studies continue to instinctively adhere to the traditions of Islam on account of their favourable view of the religion. However, as such a person continues to take further steps towards secular knowledge, they continue to leave Islam further and further behind. Finally, nothing is left but mere rituals and the essence of religion is lost. This outcome does, and has previously come about, due to people becoming engrossed in one-sided investigation and education. Many who are even dubbed leaders of their nation have been unable to understand the point that acquiring knowledge in modern sciences is only beneficial when done so with the sole intention of serving religion, and if one benefits from the company of a holy and divinely inspired man of God."

(Malfoozat Vol. 1, pp. 67,68)

Picture Source: https://makhzan.org/

Huzoor[aa] Narrates a Momentous Series of Events

(Taken from Al-Hakam)

The days that ensued the demise of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy upon him) and before the Election of the Fifth Khalifa were turbulent days for the entire Jama'at. A lot has been said and written about that time and its sensitivity, but we always remained curious to know what Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper) went through. Fifteen years have passed in this curiosity but thanks to Al Hakam that enabled me to muster up the courage to ask.

A few days ago, in a blessed moment, I enquired about this from Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) and Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) most graciously shed light on it. I have no claim or experience of speedwriting, but Allah enabled me to jot down every word that Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said in reply. Below is the translation of the original Urdu narration of events by Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah be his Helper).

"I arrived home from my office to be told by my wife that Miyan Luqman had called from London to say that Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy upon him) had passed away. I immediately called Dr. Nuri sahib who was in London at the time, as a medical advisor to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy upon him). He confirmed the devastating news.

This news came as a great shock. The sorrow was overwhelming, but the sensitivity of the situation demanded complete control of emotions as it was a testing time for the entire Jamaat. As Nazir-e-Ala [Chief Secretary], it was my responsibility to organise the series of events that would follow and oversee them.

I called the Private Secretary in London who, I realised, was then unaware of the situation. I asked him to gather all the details and send them to me as soon as possible.

In the meantime, I called a meeting of the Ulia Committee, which comprised the key officials of Jama'at bodies, like Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya and Tehrik-e-Jadid etc. I gave instructions in

the wake of the emergency situation. I also had to ensure that visas were up to date and that there were travel arrangements for members of the Electoral College; those whose visas had expired, I ensured that they were given visas as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, I received the details of the time and cause of Huzoor's (may Allah have mercy upon him) demise from the Private Secretary. I conveyed these to Miyan Ahmad Sahib [the late Sahibzada Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib] along with instructions on drafting an announcement to inform the Jama'ats around the world. He brought back to me the draft for approval, which was then sent out to all Jamaats and also broadcast on MTA. I had already instructed Sultan Mahmood Anwar sahib to make a formal announcement after the Asr prayer in Masjid Mubarak.

That time was a test of patience. On the one hand, there was the grief of Huzoor's (may Allah have mercy upon him) demise and on the other, the responsibility of fulfilling a crucial duty that had been entrusted to me by Huzoor (may Allah have mercy upon him): the duty of supervising the arrangements of Intikhab-e-Khilafat [election of the new Khalifa].

With these mixed emotions, I headed home to prepare for my flight to London. The preparation, by the way, was nothing more than grabbing a few clothes alongside my travel documents and setting off for departure.

As visas were still being processed for a few members of the Electoral College, it was decided that the members be split into two convoys: one to fly on the same day and the other to leave the following day once the visas had been acquired.

In the first convoy were Miyan Khurshid sahib [the late Sahibzada Mirza Khurshid Ahmad sahib], Miyan Ahmad sahib [the late Sahibzada Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib], Miyan Anas Ahmad Sahib and myself; we were fourteen members altogether. We set off from Rabwah to Lahore where we were to catch the flight. There was a short transit in Abu Dhabi from where we boarded the London bound flight.

I had already given instructions from Rabwah about washing and shrouding the body. When we arrived in London, the body had been washed, shrouded and placed in a casket and Huzoor (may Allah have mercy upon him) was laid in state in Mahmood Hall for members of the Jama'at to pay their respects. I, too, initially paid my respects here in Mahmood Hall. The way one feels upon seeing their Imam in that situation cannot be described in words. But you can imagine; so, imagine what my feelings were in that moment.

By then, it was time for Namaz [prayers], so we offered Namaz in the Fazl Mosque. Now, Huzoor's (may Allah have mercy upon him) body had been moved to a room adjacent to Mahmood Hall. I went to that room. A strange moment that was; in the room was Huzoor (may Allah have mercy upon him), myself and absolute silence. It was a surreal setting. I stayed there, at Huzoor's (may Allah have mercy upon him) side, for quite some time, praying for Huzoor (may Allah have mercy upon him).

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy upon him), had issued a set of instructions well before his demise, for such an emergency situation. One clause was that before the arrival of Nazir-e-Ala in London, Amir Jama'at UK would be Additional Nazir-e-Ala to oversee necessary arrangements in the meantime. Upon arrival, I took charge from Amir sahib UK and commenced the process for convening the Electoral College, the funeral and the burial etc. Time was short; a lot had to be done and every

task required full care and attention.

By the sheer blessings of Allah, everything was organised in good time. I felt at peace that I had fulfilled my duty. Every moment was spent praying that Allah granted the Jama'at a new Khalifa, and that I and every member of the Jama'at were able to obey the new Khalifa; every moment was spent praying that Allah may keep the Jama'at united.

This state is, indeed, a state of fear. So of course, there was fear. But there was also firm faith in Allah's promise that He would replace this state of fear with security. Thus, I was under the strong belief that Allah would grant the Jama'at a new Khalifa and that our fears would be replaced with peace.

Then came the time for the Election. As a member, I also entered the Fazl Mosque that was full with members of the Electoral College. I stood near the shoes with Chaudhry Hameedullah Sahib for a while. Chaudhry Sahib, as the senior-most official of the Jamaat, was to preside over the Election, so when he was called to the front, I sat where I was stood, at the back of the Mosque.

The aura of the gathering was such that I did not have the courage to peer up and glance around nor did my conscience permit; a fragile time as it was. Thus, I sat with my gaze down. When my name was presented, I felt instant fear, so I lowered my head. When the votes were counted and the announcement made, I was confident that there must have been a mistake in the count. What happened after this made me tremble; there was no choice but to accept the decree of God. The Bai'at and silent prayer followed.

How I felt in that moment, the whole world saw on MTA. It was as if the weight of a mountain had been placed on my shoulders.

It was midnight or even past midnight when I got to [my residence at number] 41, Guest House. There, in my room was I, the darkness of the night and the blessings of my God."

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) paused here. Having heard this directly from Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper), I was enchanted and did not know how to ask for more details. But in that precious moment, I felt that I owed more to the readers of Al Hakam and so, built the courage to gather more pearls. "What thoughts had crossed your mind, leaving Rabwah, Huzoor?" Our beloved master, in his humility, replied in a low tone:

"There was so much to be done before my departure that I did not have much else on my mind. However, I had said to my wife that on the seventh day after the Election, I would seek permission from the new Khalifa to return. I was also mentally prepared that the new Khalifatul Masih might not assign me the same responsibility I had. But I pledged to myself that whatever responsibilities were assigned to me, I would perform them wholeheartedly and then return."

I thought that this was it. But my master probably sensed my curiosity.

"Is that it? What else did you want to hear?"

He said this with great affection; the affection that produces valour. I asked, "Your life must have drastically changed after becoming Khalifa. How does it feel?" The reply was simple but enlightening.

"That moment was a 'U-turn' in my life. What I had left behind, remained there and where I am heading to is, by Allah's will, in constant motion. I was a free man, fond of sowing seeds and harvesting crops – a simple farmer. Then I was appointed as Nazir-e-Ala, and from then on, I had to perform administrative responsibilities. Then, Allah entrusted me with this responsibility."

As I walked out of Huzoor's (may Allah be his Helper) office, I was spellbound. Before my very eyes were the crops that had yielded out of the seeds sown by this great Khalifa, which he continues to sow. May Allah keep these crops forever waving with the winds of His Mercy, and may the farmer of these crops live long. Ameen.

Photo by heino eisner on Unsplash.com

Planning, Designing, And Growing Your Garden

Dr. Mohyuddin Mirza, Edmonton, Alberta

وَالْأَرْضَ وَضَعَهَا لِلْأَنَامِ (55:11)

And He has set the earth for His creatures.

Gardening offers many benefits to your physical, moral and spiritual health. Physical is very obvious that modest exercise is healthy. Moral in the sense that you plant seeds, look after them and accure benefit from the produce. Spiritual in the sense watching your plants grow and bear flowers and fruits connects you with God. Gardening fits under the two main attributes of Allah that is Al-Rahman and Al-Raheem. Al-Rahman because He provided all the needed components for gardening for you without asking and did so for everybody. This includes soil, water, minerals, air and light. Al-Raheem covers your efforts. You will be rewarded for the efforts you are putting into gardening. It is the fruit of your gardening, which is under His attribute of Al-Raheem.

The basic principle of gardening is reported in a Hadith. "Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) relates that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: While a man was walking through a barren tract of land he heard a voice proceeding from a cloud saying: Water the garden of So and So. Thereupon the cloud advanced in a certain direction and rained its water over a rocky piece of land. The streamlets flowed into a large channel. This man followed the channel till it encircled a garden and he saw the owner of the garden standing in it's midst working with the spade spreading the water, He asked him: Servant of Allah, what is your name? He told him his name, which was the same that he had heard from the cloud. The owner of the garden then asked him: Servant of Allah, why did you ask me my name? He answered: I heard a voice from the cloud from which this water has come, saying: Water the garden of so and so; and I would like to know what you do with it. He

said: Now that you ask me, I will tell you. I estimate the produce of the garden, then give away one-third in charity, use one third for my family and self and restore one third to the garden. (Muslim).

Keeping this Hadith in mind plan your garden. Write down the size of your garden, its location, sunlight availability, shade, type of soil, water availability and what you are going to grow and also share the produce with your neighbors and return one third to the soil as its share. This will improve the organic matter contents.

Here are some guidelines

Designing your garden: The design will depend upon the location of your garden. If it is in your backyard, locate the garden where sunlight is available for at least 10 hours. If a house is shading the garden, then plant shade-loving plants near the house wall. Basically, just make sure that water is easily accessible and keep enough area for the walkways.

What to grow? This depends upon you. Generally, you will grow vegetables and flowers. Vegetables are of two types. One, which produces fruit and the other, are leafy vegetables. Flowers are annual or perennials. Prepare a list of vegetables in the following way:

- Warm temperature vegetables:

Cucumbers of many types, Tomatoes, Peppers, Bitter Melons (Karela), Melons of different types. Plant these vegetables towards the south side of the garden. If your garden is oriented East and West, then plan the rows North and South. Most of these need some type of support to climb. Plan accordingly by having a wooden frame with strings.

- Cooler temperature vegetables:

They include all leafy vegetables like Spinach, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, and all root vegetables like Carrots, Turnips, Radishes and similar. Root vegetables are frost tolerant and can stay much longer than warm temperature vegetables.

The choice of varieties is yours based on you taste and preferences. A thing to remember is when you buy seeds or transplants, find out the time to harvest. It will be clearly mentioned on the seed packet. Warm temperature vegetables are the fastest growing and could give you the first fruit in less than 60 days. Some plants produce male flowers first and then female flowers and they require insects for pollination. Generally, insects will find those flowers. Your job is not to use insecticides which kill them.

Seeding: Make sure that seeding is done when there is enough moisture in the soil. Pick up some soil in your hand and try to squeeze water out of it. If you can squeeze a few drops with an effort, then it is acceptable. If it crumbles, then it is too dry. Many seeds can be soaked in water for 24 hours and then planted after they have sprouted. You can buy seedlings or transplants very easily now from greenhouses and nurseries. Put your transplants in the garden soil towards evening. In this way there will be less stress on them. Don't forget to say a prayer while putting the seeds or transplants in soil.

Watering: Maintain enough moisture in your soil. Once the plant is established, then the roots can extract water from a larger surface area. Water either early in the morning or in the late afternoon. If need arise you can apply fertilizer with irrigation water. A strong stream of water can be used to knock off any insects sitting on leaves, like aphids.

Fertilizing: What is needed to build up enough fertility in the soil to begin with so that you may not have to add any fertilizer later. But if you find that the plants do not have enough energy in them, then fertilizers may be needed. When you buy fertilizers in bags, there are three numbers on them: for example, 20-20-20 or 20-10-10 or 28-14-14. The first number indicates the amount of total nitrogen, the second number is the total amount of phosphates, and the third number is total Potash. These are three major nutrients, which plants need but they are not the only ones. Nitrogen is needed for fast growth and color; phosphates are needed for root

development and flower and seed and potash is needed for fruit filling and is involved with diseases resistance. Refer to sheet number 4 for managing fertilizers in your gardens.

Plant Management: Each plant is designed to grow at proper spacing and you should know about them. Crowding will cause disease problems and plants will be thin and spindly. For example, most of the plants in cucumber family should get a spacing of 10 square feet/ plant. It means if the distance between plants is 2 feet, then the row spacing should be five feet. Tomatoes need half of that spacing. Leafy and root vegetables can be grown at a one foot spacing. Plants like coriander, Fenugreek (Methi) can be grown in rows with seeds spaced at one inch. Carrots can be grown similarly at less spacing. Some plants will require support. Remember the principle that if you remove flowers, it will promote root activity. So early flowers set can be removed to promote plant establishment.

Weed Control: That will be your biggest challenge. Weeds are those plants which you did not plant but they "invited" themselves and weeds are efficient competitors. In a small garden remove them before they set seeds. Some weeds are highly edible and have medicinal value. For example, a weed called Purslane also called "kulfa" is very rich in certain fatty acids like linolenic acid and good for health. Similarly dandelion roots are very good for liver cleansing. Amaranth is another weed "Athoo-Bathoo" which is very rich in iron and some other minerals. Using herbicides to kill these weeds should be last resort.

Insect Control: Many insects aphids, whiteflies, caterpillars of different types can attack your plants. It is best to keep away from applying insecticides unless it becomes necessary. Most of the information is available from local garden centers on what to use for what types of insects.

Harvesting: Each plant you are growing has its ideal time for harvest. Harvest when fruit is ready and tender. Wash thoroughly before eating. Keep them in the fridge to extend shelf life. Remember that Hadith, share with other people. Many food banks accept vegetables like potatoes and carrots.

Some Pictures of Gardens:

The following pictures were taken during a competition of judging the backyard gardens in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. It is a cold region where gardening is possible from May to September. So much can be grown during this short period of summer. Many vegetables can be stored and thus season is extended.

Back yard gardens should be constructed where is minimal shade and more direct sunlight.

Back yard gardens should be constructed where is minimal shade and more direct sunlight.

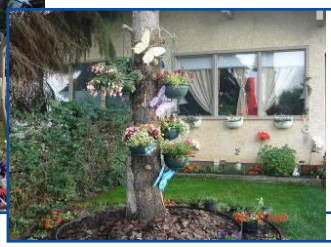
Picture on the left side Shows a well-planned garden with beans and strawberries in the front, fenugreek (methi) in the background. The picture on the right side are delicious green peas.

Root vegetables are easy to grow in cold climates.

Left side picture shows sugar beets almost ready to harvest and right-side show potatoes. Both crops were grown in organic systems, that is no chemical fertilizers were being added. Soil fertility is built by supplying organic matter and manure.

Using containers for growing herbs and flowers is very good idea. One does not have to work the soil and product can be moved if it gets too cold.

Many vegetables can be grown along with flowers. This is a good strategy where insects get attracted to flowers and vegetables are left alone. On right side is a plant of Zucchini.



Using flowers in backyard and front yards is an excellent idea. One can enjoy nature right there and children can be kept busy as well. Gardening is good for health as well.

Here are two beautiful examples of using perennials in back yard gardening. Right is a medicinal plant called Echinacea

Fruit trees can easily be grown in backyard or front yards and very good varieties are available for fresh eating and for making jam and jellies.

Using flower baskets in the front yards is always great. They add color to bland looking concrete.

Photo by: Ardalan Hamedani on Unsplash.com

BUYING A USED CAR IN CANADA

Nisar Shams, Melville

Buying a used car in Canada can be a smart way to save money, but it's important to approach the process carefully to ensure you're getting a good deal. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you buy a used car in Canada:

1. Set a Budget

- Determine your price range: Consider how much you can afford to spend, not just on the car itself, but also on insurance, registration, taxes, and possible repairs.
- Financing options: If you're considering financing, research loan rates and the loan length to find an affordable monthly payment.

2. Research the Market

- Use online tools: Websites like AutoTrader.ca, Kijiji Autos, CarGurus, Marketplace, and Craigslist are popular platforms for browsing listings across Canada.
- Check the vehicle's value: Use tools like Canadian Black Book or Kelley Blue Book Canada to check the fair market value of the car you're interested in. This will help you understand if the asking price is reasonable.

3. Choose the Right Car

- Consider your needs: Think about the size, fuel efficiency, reliability, and features you need. Will you be driving mostly in the city, or do you need something more rugged for outdoor adventures?
- Research car reliability: Some cars are known for their reliability (e.g., Toyota, Honda, Subaru). Consumer reports or user reviews can help you identify the best makes and models for your needs.
- Mileage: Lower mileage often means less wear and tear on the car, but higher-mileage vehicles can still be reliable if they've been well-maintained.

4. Inspect the Vehicle

- Get a pre-purchase inspection (PPI): Before finalizing a deal, have a trusted mechanic inspect the car to check for any hidden issues, such as engine problems, rust, or accident damage.
- Check the exterior and interior: Look for any visible signs of accidents, rust, or wear and tear. Inspect the body, tires, lights, windows, and the interior for any damage.

- Check the engine: Check under the hood for oil leaks, corrosion, or any strange smells. The engine should be clean, and there shouldn't be excessive smoke coming from the exhaust.

5. Request the Vehicle History Report

- Use Carfax Canada or Auto Check: A vehicle history report can tell you if the car has been in any accidents, had title issues, or undergone major repairs.
- Check for recalls: Make sure the car hasn't been subject to any unresolved recalls and ensure any necessary repairs have been made.

6. Verify the Seller

- Private seller: If buying from an individual, check if they're the legal owner of the vehicle and make sure there are no liens on the car.
- Dealer: If buying from a dealership, ensure the dealership is licensed and has a good reputation. Many dealerships offer warranties or guarantees on used cars.
- Trust your instincts: If the deal feels too good to be true, it may be a red flag. Take your time and don't rush into a purchase.

7. Negotiate the Price

- Don't be afraid to negotiate Sellers expect some negotiation, so start by offering a lower price than what's listed, especially if you've identified any issues or repairs the car might need.
- Use market research: If similar vehicles are listed for less, use this information to back up your offer.

8. Complete the Paperwork

- Bill of Sale: This document records the sale, including the purchase price, car details, and the seller's information. Make sure both parties sign it.
- Transfer of ownership: For private sales, you'll need to fill out the ownership transfer document (usually included with the car's registration). This is essential to legally transfer the title to your name.
- Proof of purchase: Make sure to keep a copy of all documents, including the bill of sale, vehicle history report, and inspection report.

9. Check for Outstanding Liens

- Before finalizing your purchase, ensure that the car is free of any liens or debts. In Canada, you can check for liens through the Personal Property Security Act (PPSA) in your province (e.g., in Ontario, you can check it on the Ontario government website).

10. Insurance and Registration

- Get insurance: In Canada, it's mandatory to have insurance before driving a car. Contact your insurance company to get a quote and arrange for coverage.
- Register the car: After purchasing, you must register the car with your province's motor vehicle department (e.g., Service Ontario, ICBC in British Columbia, or Alberta Registries). You'll also need to pay taxes and fees.

11. Post-Purchase Checklist

- Change the oil and fluids: Even if the car seems well-maintained, it's a good idea to do basic maintenance like an oil change and fluid checks.
- Set up maintenance schedule: Regular maintenance will keep your used car running smoothly for years.

Additional Tips:

- Warranties: Some dealerships offer used car warranties, which can provide peace of mind in case something goes wrong after you buy the car.
- Test Drive: Always take the car for a test drive to check its performance. Pay attention to how it drives, sounds, and handles on the road.
- Avoid Hidden Fees: If buying from a dealership, watch out for hidden fees like admin fees or delivery fees that can be tacked on at the last minute.

By following these steps, you can confidently buy a used car in Canada and ensure you're getting a good deal on a reliable vehicle.